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PLO Executive Committee Meets in Tunis 30 Jun

JN301216 Paris Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jun 83

[Excerpt] Thirty minutes ago the PLO Executive Committee began its anticipated meeting in Tunis. The meeting began at 1130 GMT under Yasir 'Arafat's chairmanship and in the presence of PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum and his deputy Abu al-Adib [Salim az-Za'nun]. Thirteen members attended the meeting.

PFLP-GC, As-Sa'iqah Representatives Absent

JN301750 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 30 Jun 83

[Text] In Tunis this afternoon, the PLO Executive Committee met under Yasir 'Arafat, with 12 of the 14 members attending. The meeting, which was disrupted by a banquet to break the fast, was notattended by As-Sa'iqah representative Muhammad Khalifah and PFLP-GC representative Talal Naji. It is believed that the absence of Talal Naji and Muhammad Khalifah could mean that ironing out the differences between Yasir 'Arafat and the Syrian capital will beextremely difficult to achieve, at least at present. In any event, it has not yet been confirmed — officially or publicly — that the meeting will be boycotted by the PFLP-GC and As-Sa'iqah.

As is known, Yasir 'Arafat's objective behind the PLO Executive Committee's meeting, with all members or at least the majority of members attending, is to demonstrate the unity and cohesion of the PLO at this difficult time for the Palestinian resistance — and of Fatah in particular — in the Al-Biqa' plain.

It seems that the military preparations by the two sides portends the outbreak of violent battles, perhaps in the coming hours. It is clear that the pro-'Arafat elements are prepared to confront all eventualities in Ba'labakk where they brought in huge reinforcements.

More on PLO Meeting

JN301630 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Jun 83

[Text] Our radio correspondent says that during the meeting, which will last 2 days, the committee will discuss the situation in the Palestinian arena in wake of the blatant Syrian-Libyan interference in internal Palestinian affairs and the situation in Al-Biqa'. The committee will also discuss the military situation, the Zionist threats against the Palestinian revolution forces, and the general Arab situation.

Special Committee Formed

LD010747 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0724 GMT 1 Jul 83

[Excerpt] Tunis, 1 Jul (KUNA) — At the end of its meeting here at dawn today, the PLO Executive Committee has formed a committee led by Khalid al-Fahum, PNC speaker, to tackle the developments which have occurred in both the Palestinian and Arab arenas, primarily the rebellion within the Fatah movement and the differences that exists between Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the committee, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The committee includes Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, Ahmad al-Yamani, and Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani. A responsible source in the PLO Executive Committee told KUNA that the members of the committee have affirmed their confidence in Mr 'Arafat as leader of the PLO.

Committee Issues Statement

LD011038 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1012 GMT 1 Jul 83

[Text] Tunis, 1 Jul (KUNA) — Today, the PLO Executive Committee asserted the need to preserve the joint fraternal ties with Syria. At the same time, it expressed its regret and pain at the expulsion of Chairman Yasir 'Arafat from Damascus.

At the end of its 3-day meetings, which ended at dawn today, the Executive Committee has called on all brothers in arms to immediately stop the fratricide and to preserve the principle of the democratic dialogue as the genuine traditional means in tackling all the problems, and to preserve the precious Palestinian blood for the continuous battle with the Zionist enemy who has usurped our homeland and rights, and to be careful not to turn secondary conflicts into hostile conflicts, so as to prevent the enemy from benefitting from any flaw in our ranks.

Absent from the Executive Committee meetings were the two representatives of As-Sa'iqah and the Popular Front General Command — Mr Muhammad Khalifah and Mr Talal Naji. The meetings were attended by National Council Chairman Khalid al-Fahum and several Fatah Central Committee members, in addition to the chairman and the rest of the members of the committee.

A statement issued after the meeting said that the committee had studied the situation in the Palestinian arena — in particular the military developments in Al-Biqa' — and also all aspects of the dispute within Fatah, and the impact of this on the future of the national Palestinian struggle. It also studied the development of Palestinian-Syrian relations and concentrated on action to preserve the joint fraternal ties. The statement adds that the Executive Committee was hurt by the decision to tell the Executive Committee chairman to leave Syria. It expresses great regret over this decision, which the enemy is trying to exploit to weaken the confrontation front at this grave stage through which we all are passing, especially after the U.S.-Zionist agreement imposed on Lebanon.

The committee stresses its confidence that the voice of national duty and concern for the common fate will be higher than any sudden differences, and that principled commitment to the unity of the basic forces of confrontation and struggle will prevail. It also demanded an end to all forms of propaganda and [word indistinct] campaigns, and urged that all efforts be directed toward reaching agreement on democratic solutions to all issues.

The statement adds that, proceeding from this, the Executive

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AFP: Fatah Resuffles Top Internal Positions

NC061355 Paris AFP in English 1330 GMT 6 Jul 83

[Text] Tunis, July 6 (AFP) — Fatah has reshuffled top jobs in the organization following weeks of strife between supporters of Palestine Liberation Organization Chief Yasir 'Arafat and Fatah dissidents, an informed Palestinian source said here today.

The Central Committee of Fatah, the largest component of the PLO, announced the changes after a fourth day of talks here on the rift, presided by Mr. 'Arafat. The decisions, shrouded in secrecy, were said to follow on [words indistinct] Revolutionary Council, the source added.

The meeting, attended by nine of the 11-member central committee — two dissident members refused to take part in the discussions — appointed Abu Iyad as head of a three-man security department, along with Abu 'al-Hawl and Abu Sa'id, the source said.

Mr. 'Arafat was replaced as head of the information department by Khalid al-Hasan. The PLO leader was named to head the finance department, with members Abu Iyad and Abu Mazin.

Fatah's foreign affairs department will be headed by current PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi, backed up by Abu Mazin.

Abu Mahir was appointed chairman of the mobilization and internal organisation department, which includes two other members, Abu Mazin and Abu Adib.

Abu Adib, deputy chairman of the Palestinian National Council, or parliament, was named to the revolutionary security court.

The source said that the meeting looked into latest developments in the Fatah crisis and "plots against the Palestinian people."

Tunis on 5 Jul Session

LD052108 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jul 83

[Text] for the fourth consecutive day, Fatah Central Committee meetings continued today in the presence of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. WAFA reported that the latest developments in Fatah, the intrigues against the Palestinian cause, and means of confronting all the challenges against the Palestinian revolution were on the agenda.

It is worth mentioning that all 12 Central Committee members are taking part in this meeting with the exception of two dissidents: Ahmad Qadri and Abu Salih [Nimr Salih].

'Arafat Chairs Meeting of PLO Representatives

JN031652 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Jul 83

[Text] In Tunis brother commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has presided over a meeting of PLO representatives in Europe, Asia, Africa, and North America. Our radio correspondent has learned that Brother Abu 'Ammar explained the recent developments in Al-Biqa' following Syrian interference in internal Palestinian affairs and the repeated attacks on Palestinian revolution forces, especially Fatah movement positions in Al-Biqa', by Syrian special forces and tanks. He also outlined to the conferees the results of the recent meetings held by the PLO Executive Committee in the Tunisian capital.

KUNA: Palestinian Committee Meets Khaddam 3 Jul

LD031603 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1504 GMT 3 Jul 83

[Text] Damascus, 3 Jul (KUNA) — At the beginning of its contacts and movements concerning the solution of the current dispute within the Fatah movement and the current disputes between the PLO and Syria and means to strengthen Palestinian-Syrian relations, the special Palestinian delegation recently formed by the PLO Executive Committee and chaired by Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the PNC, confered here today with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. After a meeting held by the special committee and attended by Talal Naji, PFLP-GC representative and member of the Executive Committee, and the members of the committee, Mr al-Fahum told the press that the committee had started its work with a meeting this morning to study ideas on how to carry out the mission that the Executive Committee gave it. This mission concentrates on the necessity of immediately stopping the fighting between the two disputing sides in order to prepare the ground for Palestinian national unity. The committee's mission also concentrates on a search for all means leading to the implementation of the PNC resolution concerning Palestinian-Syrian strategic relations.

He added that, starting today and for the next few days, the committee will contact all sides concerned in the Palestinian arena.

Mr al-Fahum expressed hope that the committee will achieve positive results by concentrating the efforts of all those concerned. This hope makes the committee advance upon its mission optimistically.

Asked about the possibility of a reconciliation between President Hafiz al-Asad and Yasir 'Arafat, he said: We must always be optimistic.

Withdrawal Not Discussed

GF051341 Doha QNA in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Jul 83

[Excerpts] Damascus, 5 Jul (QNA) — A spokesman for the six-man committee stemming from the PLO Executive Committee has denied that the committee discussed with the Fatah dissidents or other Palestinian leaders the issue of the withdrawal of Palestinian forces from Lebanon. In a statement made here today, the spokesman said this issue had not been discussed at all and that there is no such decision by Fatah's leadership or any other party on this issue. He affirmed that all that has been reported and said on this issue is a mere falsification and fabrication.

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JN161035 Amman Sawt Ash-Sha'b in Arabic 16 Jul 83 pp 6, 7

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat; identified by his non de guerre Abu 'Ammar, by *Sawt Ash-Sha'b* correspondent Ibrahim Sakkijha in Tunis on 14 July]

[Text] *Sawt Ash-Sha'b*: Brother Abu 'Ammar: First of all, we would like to thank you for giving us some of your valuable time, especially since we realize that these moments are ones you need to rest before carrying out more activities in the interest of the Palestinian cause. However, having you tell the Palestinian and Jordanian people the facts directly alleviates some of the sense of guilt that we have.

Brother Abu 'Ammar: What truth is there to all that has been said and is being said on the existence of a dissident movement within Fatah, the largest and most important faction in the Palestinian revolution since the 1948 tragedy?

Abu 'Ammar: The truth is that some of the brothers have created an internal problem. This is not the first time that such a thing has happened. I want to remind the brothers that there was a problem caused by Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], and another one caused by Abu Yusuf al-Kayid. Such problems do occur in any revolution. However, the seriousness of what is taking place these days is that it took place after Beirut, while the Palestinian revolution is still healing its wounds and alleviating the sufferings of its people in Lebanon. As everyone knows, there are some 300,000 evacuees in the camps in Beirut and in all of Lebanon. Amidst these sufferings and problems, the internal problem occurred and was exploited by the Arab intelligence organs, particularly in Libya and Syria. Although we succeeded in ending the problems in the field, we were surprised that they received official and public support from Libya. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi personally —and through his organs — continues to boast that his forces, which are present in Al-Biqa' and have not fired a single shot against the Israelis, had opened fire on our bases and revolutionaries who epitomize the most noble and honest manifestation in our Arab nation, and who upheld our Arab nation's dignity in the epic of Beirut and the war in the south.

We were also surprised to find that our camps, warehouses, military workshops, and offices in Damascus were handed over by the Syrian military police to what they had called the dissidents. These offices, warehouses, and workshops were under the protection of the Syrian military police. Everyone knows this. This was our agreement with them after our departure from Beirut. What is more serious is that Syrian military units and a Syrian brigade commander participated. I was informed of this officially by the Syrian forces' command in Al-Biqa'. When the brigade located in Al-Masna' moved and occupied Majdal 'Anjar, they sent me a cable which I still have in my possession stating that this was carried out on the brigade commander's own initiative. This took place while the Fatah Revolutionary Council was meeting in Damascus. We held this meeting in Damascus to show our good intentions, and that we sincerely desire to improve our relations with the Syrian brothers. While we were attending the Fatah Revolutionary Council meeting, we were surprised by the move of this brigade, which is located in Al-Masna', and by its occupation of Majdal 'Anjar.

It seems that those who issue communiques are not that intelligent because the communique carried on SANA said that the dissidents occupied Al-Masna' and the international road between Al-Masna' and Shtawrah. Every person in Lebanon and Syria, who passed through this area from 1976 onward, knows that Al-Masna' is the headquarters of the Syrian division there. Israel knows that it is the headquarters of the Syrian division there. The U.S. Sputnik knows that it is the headquarters of the Syrian division there. The Soviet Sputnik knows that it is the headquarters of the Syrian division there. How then did they control this area?

Everyone knows that the international highway between Shtawrah and Al-Masna' — and as far as the mountain — has been under Syrian control since 1976. Therefore, the communique carried by SANA was very serious. We were then surprised by the siege of the Syrian forces — Syrian and Libyan tanks — on our bases. When we inquired about this development, we were told that it was a military exercise. I asked: A military exercise around our bases only?

I also addressed myself to President al-Asad, especially since some of my brothers said that I should contact him. I addressed a long cable and a long letter to Al-Asad, urging him to intervene to stop the deterioration in the situation. When I did not obtain any answer, I went to Al-Biqa'. We were surprised to discover that As-Sa'iqah, which is a Syrian organization, was involved in the incident. I will give you the evidence. Here is a report on As-Sa'iqah operations signed by Salah ad-Din al-Ma'ani, who replaced Zuhayr Muhsin as military commander of the As-Sa'iqah forces. The report says that they were the ones who apprehended Lieutenant Colonel Nasir Yusuf. He was apprehended at the Syrian checkpoint. The report says: We apprehended Lt Col Nasir Yusuf. Our forces and their allies then took control on 27 and 28 June. We carried out mopping up operations through coordination with the comrades in the deterrent [ADF] forces, the PFLP-GC, and the Palestinian National Struggle Front. In my last speech to our heroic people in the occupied territory, I said, among other things, that I had appealed to President al-Asad to intervene to stop any deterioration in the situation.

We are against any battle or clashes between us and our brothers in the Syrian Army, and against any clashes between us and our brothers in the Libyan Army. We are also against Arab tribal feuds. But they are pushing us into these feuds. Then came the surprise. I was in Tripoli when the Syrian brothers called me to Syria. On the day of my arrival, I spent 3 hours with Syrian officials. (The invitation was from Dr Rif'at al-Asad). He told me that he and others had been authorized by the president to hold talks with me. Indeed, we achieved very positive results and we decided to follow up on the discussions. Therefore, I was surprised when I heard at 1100 hours the following day, while I was attending a meeting of the Palestinian leaders, that I was being considered persona non grata. That step lacked diplomatic tact. Yet when I was leaving Beirut, the Lebanese Army, the Lebanese prime minister, and another special envoy broke protocol [by seeing me off]. As everyone knew, there were problems between

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'Arafat Leaves Tunis; Visits Saudi Arabia

Meets With King Fahd

JN251632 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Jul 83

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] today met with Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. The meeting dealt with the latest developments in the current situation in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas. Brother Abu 'Ammar arrived in Saudi Arabia today from Tunis.

Before leaving Tunis, Brother Abu 'Ammar met with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson. The talks dealt with the developments in the Palestinian issue.

'Arafat, Fahd Attend Reception

LD260123 Riyadh SPA in English 1908 GMT 25 Jul 83

[Text] At-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, July 25, SPA — HM King Fahd tonight attended a grand public reception set by people of this summer resort to express their loyalty and love to the leader of their country.

The Saudi monarch was accompanied by second Deputy Premier and Defence Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. The reception was attended by chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation's Chairman Yasir 'Arafat who arrived here earlier today for talks with King Fahd and Saudi leaders on Arab and Palestinian developments.

'Arafat Denies Agreement With Husayn on Reagan Plan

LD260944 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0854 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] Tunis, 26 Jul (KUNA) — In an interview on Italian television last night, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat denied that he had agreed with King Husayn of Jordan to consider President Ronald Reagan's initiative as a good basis for a solution of the Middle East crisis. He said: I have reached no such agreement at all, because King Husayn and I are bound by the Arab plan for solving the Palestinian question, which was adopted at the Fez Arab summit conference.

In reply to a question, 'Arafat said: "The Reagan plan differs completely from the Arab plan adopted at Fez, and the two plans cannot be considered complementary to each other in any way whatsoever." 'Arafat criticized the rigid U.S. attitude toward recognition of the Palestine people's right to self-determination. He said: "I cannot understand how can the American people accept such a thing when the United States was founded on the basis of the right to self-determination. The comic-tragic thing," he said, "is that while the United States vehemently supports the right to self-determination for the 1,800 people in the Falklands, it denies this right to 5 million Palestinians."

Asked why the PLO persists in refusing to recognize the Zionist entity as a means for starting a dialogue with the United States that may lead to a solution of the Middle East crisis, 'Arafat said: "Why do you ask us to recognize Israel and you do not ask Israel to implement the UN resolutions on the rights of the Palestinians, particularly as Israel is the only country in the world that was created by a UN resolution."

In reply to another question, 'Arafat denied any connection between the PLO and the Italian Red Brigades terrorist organization. He said: "I challenge anyone to produce any proof about the existence of such a relationship."

PLO Executive Committee Issues Statement

JN251744 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1635 GMT 25 Jul 83

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee today issued the following statement at the end of its recent meetings in Tunis:

During the Executive Committee meetings, under the chairmanship of Brother Abu 'Ammar, the Palestinian situation inside and outside the occupied land was discussed. It decided to form delegations to attend several international conferences and occasions. It also discussed the current contacts with Syria. The situation in Lebanonas well as several political issues were also discussed. The Executive Committee arrived at the following results:

First, the Executive Committee notes the heroic stand of our masses inside the occupied land in defending the revolution and rallying around the PLO and its leadership, as expressed by various popular and political moves throughout our occupied land.

Second, the Zionist enemy is currently carrying out more than one expulsion and settlement conspiracy in Hebron, and against its valiant masses who stand united and firm to protect the city from this fascist aggression by the Zionist army and the gangs of settlers. The Executive Committee calls upon our people and all our institutions and bodies to express their solidarity with valiant Hebron. It appeals to all sectors of world public opinion to condemn these methods and the imperialist-Zionist schemes. The Executive Committee hopes that the Arab governments and peoples will take the initiative in adopting all measures to protect Hebron against this criminal scheme which is aimed against its inhabitants, holy shrines, and its Arab land.

Third, the Executive Committee hails the heroic struggle against the Israeli occupation in Lebanon which is embodied by the Palestinian-Lebanese comrades in arms who continue the joint struggle to liberate Lebanon from Zionist occupation, guarantee the unity of its land and people, preserve its Arabism, and to foil the U.S.-Zionist agreement which is imposed on Lebanon. The Executive Committee studied the conditions of our Palestinian people in Lebanon, particularly with regard to the various aggressions which are being committed by some Lebanese organs and fascist gangs against our masses and camps. The Executive Committee considers such criminal acts as part of the aims of the Zionist enemy and the agreement which has been imposed on Lebanon.

The Executive Committee will adopt all practical measures to confront these measures which are being implemented at the

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